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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it serves to narrow the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

Claims 1-6, 9, 12-16, 18-23 and 26-39 are all the claims presently pending and under consideration in the application. Claims 7-8 and 24-25 have been canceled by this Amendment. Claims 1-2, 5, 12, 14-15, 19-20, 22 and 32 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-15, 19-20, 22, 24-25 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-9, 12-16 and 18-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art (e.g., APA) in view of Von Outfeld et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,284,087).

This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention (e.g., as defined by claim 1) is directed to a system which includes a first substrate having both transparent and alternating opaque and transparent regions with respect to incident electromagnetic radiation, a radiation diffuser at least partially transparent to the incident electromagnetic radiation, the radiation diffuser including a removable tape having an adhesive for attaching the removable tape to the first substrate to form a diffuser-substrate interface, a polymer used for affixing the first substrate to a second substrate, the polymer positioned between the first substrate and the second substrate along at least a peripheral region common to both the first and the second substrates, and a source of electromagnetic radiation incident onto the diffuser attached to the first substrate for polymerizing the polymer.

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Conventional systems (e.g., for use in forming a flat panel display) direct electromagnetic radiation incident to a substrate to cure a polymeric glue seal that binds two substrates (Application at page 1, lines 15-19). However, opaque metallization along certain regions of the substrate onto which the radiation is incident prevents the radiation from reaching underneath the metallization, thereby leading to uncured sealant which can be a source of contamination.

The claimed invention, on the other hand, includes a radiation diffuser which is at least partially transparent to the incident electromagnetic radiation, the radiation diffuser including a removable tape having an adhesive for attaching the removable tape to the first substrate to form a diffuser-substrate interface. However, the radiation diffuser allows the radiation to reach underneath the metallization, thereby curing sealant under the metallization and avoiding contamination (e.g., of the liquid crystal).

II. THE 35 U. S. C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that claims 1-15, 19-20, 22, 24-25 and 30-33 are indefinite as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Applicant notes, however, that these claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

Specifically, the claims have been amended to delete the term "coupler".

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART (APA) AND VON GUTFELD REFERENCES

The Examiner alleges that the admitted prior art and Von Gutfeld references would have been combined to form the claimed invention. Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant would point out to the Examiner that at the time the present invention was made it was subject to an obligation of assignment to International Business Machines Corporation and the Von Gutfeld reference was owned by

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International Business Machines Corporation (e.g., see MPEP 706.02(1)(2)). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Von Gutfeld reference is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention under 35 USC 103(c).

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6, 9, 12-16, 18-23 and 26-39, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 12/11/03

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R § 1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner John T. Haran, Group Art Unit 1733 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 11th day of December, 2003.



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